

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218553

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNESCO, IS, XF

SUBJECT: UNESCO INITIATIVES ON THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES

REF: TEL AVIV 5733

1. DEPT. WISHES TO ENCOURAGE ISRAELI EFFORT TO WORK OUT
COMPROMISE WITH M'BOW ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND TO PRESS
OUR VIEW THAT VISIT OF DG'S REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BEGIN
BEFORE OPENING OF GENERAL CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO HAVE THE
MAXIMUM EFFECT ON THE DELIBERATIONS IN NAIROBI. EMBASSY
SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF GOI
(DEPT. WILL MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO ISRAELI EMBASSY
HERE):

-- THE USG WELCOMES GOI'S FAVORABLE REACTION TO UNESCO
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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S INITIATIVE REGARDING OCCUPIED TERRIT-

ORIES ISSUE.

-- WHILE WE APPRECIATE PROBLEMS GOI HAS WITH TIMING SUGGESTED BY DG M'BOW, WE THINK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE DG ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF HIS REPRESENTATIVES ARE ACTUALLY ON THE SPOT WHEN THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OPENS.

-- IN VIEW OF THE OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE OF M'BOW'S ROLE ON THIS AND OTHER ISRAEL-RELATED ISSUES IN UNESCO, WE HOPE THAT THE GOI WILL FIND SOME WAY TO RECEIVE HIS REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE OCTOBER 26.

-- OTHERS FRIENDLY TO ISRAELIS -- MOST NOTABLY EEC PERM REPS AT UNESCO -- HAVE STRESSED TO US, IN CONTEXT COMMON EFFORTS TO AID GOI, THEIR HOPE FOR CONCILIATORY GESTURES BY GOI TOWARDS UNESCO IN ORDER TO COUNTER ARAB AND OTHER UNFRIENDLIES' ARGUMENTS ALLEGING GOI "DEFIANCE" OF UNESCO. FIXING OF VISIT AT A TIME EARLY ENOUGH TO ALLOW FOR MAXIMUM FAVORABLE IMPACT ON GENERAL CONFERENCE WOULD PROBABLY BE REGARDED AS MOST HELPFUL BY EEC.

2. FYI: WE CANNOT AGREE WITH BAR-YAACOV'S COMMENT IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL. WHILE ALL THE CARDS MAY NOT BE OUT ON THE TABLE ON THIS ONE, THE DG'S PROPOSAL SEEMS TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE MERIT AND CHANCE FOR SUCCESS. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONCILIATORY POLICY AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY M'BOW EVER SINCE HIS FIRST DAYS IN OFFICE WHEN THIS AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING ISRAEL ERUPTED AT THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. IT WOULD APPEAR HE IS ACTING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF UNESCO IN MAKING THESE PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD AGREE WITH BAR-YAACOV'S COMMENT IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL THAT REFERENCE TO TEAM PREPARING "PROPOSALS FOR UNESCO ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" IS DISTURBINGLY VAGUE AND THAT THIS ASPECT OF TEAM'S MANDATE DESERVES CLOSE WATCHING. END FYI.

3. FOR PERM REPS PARIS: WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT DDG FOBES BE KEPT CONFIDENTIALLY INFORMED OF THESE INITIATIVES AND OF OUR READINESS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORT EFFORTS TO GET TEAM INTO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BY OCTOBER 26. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME HIS THINKING AND YOURS IN THE EFFICACY OF THESE INITIATIVES AND THE TIMING OF THE PROPOSED VISIT. YOU SHOULD NOT CONSULT WITH ISRAELI PERM REP AT THIS TIME. FOR PRESENT WE PREFER TO LIMIT ACTION TO WASHINGTON AND TEL AVIV. KISSINGER

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